



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
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255 Westminster Street  
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Peter McWalters  
Commissioner

**TO: Superintendents, Middle and High School Principals**

**FROM: Peter McWalters**

**SUBJECT: Community Service Learning Applications for Funding**

**DATE: April 19, 2004**

The department is pleased to release two different Requests for Proposals to support the operation of service-learning programs. In 1998, the state legislature enacted RI General Law 16-22-21 on Community Service Learning to provide guidelines for those high schools that wanted service-learning to be a graduation requirement. In 2003, the High School Regulations adopted by the RI Board of Regents promote community service-learning in Section 5.2

**RI Learn and Serve America** program will award a total of five (5) grant awards of \$10,000 will be awarded annually for three years from June 1, 2004 to August 2006 to secondary schools. A school district may submit an application that provides \$10,000 for each of their secondary schools.

**The Rhode Island Living Democracy** program is collaboration between the Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island Departments of Education to link service-learning, history and civic education at middle and secondary schools. This program is limited to schools with experience in service-learning. A total of four (4) grants of \$12,500 will be awarded annually for three years from June 1, 2004 to August 2006 dependent on Congressional funding.

Students will engage in projects designed to build their civic skills, knowledge, behavior and attitudes as well as to improve their academic skills, build strong partnerships between schools and organizations and meet compelling community needs. Service-learning can challenge students to meet their civic responsibilities and engage them in activities that can make a difference in their schools and communities. Youth view themselves as important members of our diverse society able to participate in the democratic process and engage in the lifelong habit of service.

**Please submit your proposals to Diana Crowley by May 19, 2004.**

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